

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the year's final edition of LiFE at Ashby! I hope you have found our fortnightly round-up increasingly useful as we have changed things from the feedback we have received.

You will know that it has been another incredibly busy year at Ashby School and Ashby Sixth Form. We have seen a huge number of trips supporting a range of curriculum areas for every Key Stage and are very grateful to the staff who organise and support these. Within this, we have visited a range of countries, pursued a range of activities and appreciated a range of culture. Trips will run right up to the end of this year with our Year 8 & 9 multi-activity residential trip to Osmington Bay happening this week to complete our offer of a residential experience in each Key Stage.

Of course, great school experiences aren't all about trips and once again we have seen fantastic achievements on the sports field and the racetrack with a number of successes and always lots of enthusiasm. It has also been another year to showcase the Arts with our first lower school musical, Shrek, being a resounding success, alongside a range of concert events and Arts showcases featuring a huge range of talented students superbly supported by our talented staff.

In the classrooms it has been a pleasure to see our final part of the age range puzzle fall into place with our Year 9 curriculum completed for the first time and students having the option to choose options for GCSEs alongside our teachers. Our Year 9 students have also started their triple Science GCSE course giving them opportunities that we have not been able to facilitate previously. We also see our unique Empowering to Learn curriculum flourish in Year 7 and start to progress into Year 8 ensuring that our students have the best possible learning skills to support the through school. We must also praise our outgoing Year 11 students who were focussed right up to the end of their exams and had an amazing time at prom. We are really looking forward to welcoming so many of them back to Ashby Sixth Form but also wish all those moving onto pastures new our very best wishes. They will do amazing things.

There has also been lots happening in Ashby Sixth Form and we are excited to be anticipating another really strong recruitment year. You can read more about these in the Sixth Form section in the newsletter.

We also hope our students have benefitted from the range of developments we have invested in on our site this year with additional seating for dining inside and out, refresh of some of our design facilities and redecoration and improved projection in KS3 and 4 Science labs. This work will be expanded to many of

our maths rooms over the summer and we will also see improvements in our Wi-Fi capacity on our Sixth Form site and developments on our website coming soon.

We are also taking the opportunity to review our catering offer and make our pricing simpler. This means our hot food offer will be available as a meal deal with a main or jacket potato, 2 sides and one item of fruit or water or a cake for £3.25. We have also had to put some small increases on some of our food options in line with other schools in the Trust which will see sandwiches priced at £2.00, single filling paninis at £2.20 and double filling paninis at £2.45. However, the price of our very popular cakes and biscuits are being held for another year. Full details of catering prices will be on our website.

Inevitably at the end of a year, we say goodbye to some valued colleagues who are moving on to new opportunities. Mr Willis and Mr Weston are leaving from our Physics and Maths departments respectively alongside Mrs Culver who is retiring as our Attendance Officer, and we wish them all the best for the future. Mr Demitrious is also leaving to take up a new position creating a new Alternative Provision at another school. I know those of you that have worked with Mr D will want to wish him luck in this exciting role and to thank him for the amazing work he has done with our young people. We also say farewell to Mr Mills, Mr Dennett and Mr Rose who have been seconded to our school from Ivanhoe for the last year as both schools navigate fluctuations in numbers through age-range change. It is lovely that we can work together so positively to overcome these challenges. Finally, Charlotte Sutton is stepping down as our Chair of Governors. Charlotte has been a staunch advocate for Ashby School for many years and I would like to thank her for all her support in this role, I also look forward to continuing to work with her as she continues to work with the Endowed Foundation who do so much to support our school. We are also saying a temporary goodbye to Mrs Smith and Mrs Culverwell who are going on maternity leave.

However, we also welcome some new colleagues to work with us.

- Miss Chotai & Ms Geraghty in Psychology
- Mrs Hardy in Languages
- Ms Harrold to support the leadership in Design
- Mr Lenton in Humanities
- Mr Pancholi as a lead practitioner in Science
- Ms Poole to lead our Arts faculty
- Ms Rennocks to lead Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (PRE)
- Miss Schroder in Maths
- Mrs Winter in English

- Mrs Alexandra Blackburn - SENDCo
- Mrs Sarah Preston – Deputy Year Team Leader

We have been fortunate to be able to recruit so many great staff and are particularly pleased to welcome our Psychology specialists to support us through the maternity leaves in this area.

We have also seen some of our staff stepping up into well-deserved new roles and welcome Mrs Smithson to the role of Attendance Officer, Mr Willoughby to lead our Appropriate Provision and Mr Benstead becoming our Year Team Leader for Year 11.

After such a busy year, all that remains is to remind you that A Level and GCSE results are on the 14th and 21st August respectively, you will find reminders on our website and social media about specific times. We also return from the summer break on Wednesday 27th August for all year groups except our incoming Year 12 who start on Monday 1st September.

I wish you a very pleasant summer break.

Best wishes

Dr Mellor

